

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 IGA-02 SS-15 L-03 RSR-01 /130 W

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P 180037Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7507

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6111

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR/MX

SUBJECT: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

REF: STATE 160425

1. DR. GUIDO BELSASSO OF CEMEF CALLED EMBASSY TODAY  
TO GIVE HIS REACTIONS TO DRAFT LETTER SENT REFTEL.

DR. BELSASSO'S PROPOSED CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) DELETE "AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF NARCOTICS  
ABUSE IN MEXICO" AND SUBSTITUTE "A GRADUATE TRAINING  
PROGRAM IN SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH METHODS AND TO SERVE  
AS AN OVERALL CONSULTANT OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES  
IN CEMEF".

(B) IN PARAGRAPH 2 CHANGE LANGUAGE IN FIRST  
SENTENCE TO READ " THE PURPOSE OF THE TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE IS TO ENABLE TO GROUP OF MEXICAN RESEARCHERS  
TO CARRY OUT PRESENT AND FUTURE SOCIAL STUDIES ON THE  
USE AND MISUSE OF LEGAL PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS AND ILLICIT  
DRUGS AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTE TO JOINT, ONGOING US-MEXICAN  
EFFORTS TO CURB DRUG ABUSE."

(C) CHANGE PARAGRAPH 4 AS FOLLOWS: "THE RESPONSIBLE  
AGENCIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS PROJECT WILL BE SAODAP OF  
THE US GOVERNMENT AND CEMEF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO".

(D) IN PARAGRAPH 5 DELETE "OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS" AND  
SUBSTITUTE "SAODAP AND CEMEF".

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2. COMMENT: DR. BELSASSO INITIALLY HAD PROBLEMS WITH

THE LANGUAGE ALLOWING FOR US MONITORING OF THE CEMEF PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, WE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S WORDING APPEARED DELIBERATE IN ALLOWING FOR THE MONITORING SPECIFICALLY OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY USG, AND DOES NOT IMPLY A BROAD MANDATE TO INTERFERE IN OTHER ASPECTS OF CEMEF OPERATIONS. DR. BELSASSO ACCEPTED THIS EXPLANATION, AGREED THAT THE LANGUAGE COULD STAND AS PROPOSED, AND ADDED THAT THE CLOSE AND GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS AGENCY, SAODAP AND DR. CHAMBERS OF COURSE MEANT THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ONGOING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN ANY CASE. DR. BELSASSO'S INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN AGENCIES AND HENCE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. EMBASSY POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY ON PAST OCCASIONS HAS INDICATED HIS OPINION THAT SUCH EXCHANGES OF LETTERS CONSTITUTE ONLY COMMITMENTS OF AGENCIES INVOLVED AND DO NOT COMMIT THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. BELSASSO THEN AGREED THAT WE SHOULD GO THE ROUTE OF FORMALIZING THE AGREEMENT BY AN EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES AS WELL.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE TEXTUAL CHANGES ABOVE WERE GIVEN OVER THE TELEPHONE BY BELSASSO AND ARE SUBJECT TO WRITTEN CONFIRMATION EARLY AUGUST 20.

4. MEANWHILE, APPRECIATE ARA/MEX STAFFING OUT ABOVE PROPOSED CHANGES AND HOPEFULLY GIVING DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED WITH FORMAL EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.

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## Message Attributes

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